years—from 1,216 on the last day of 1079 to 2,147 on the last day of 1082. In view to the increased volume of work, Government appointed an additional Judge for the Quilon Court as a temporary measure for one year, located permanently two itinerant Munsiffs' Courts—one at Chengannur and one at Quilon, appointed a separate Magistrate-Munsiff at Shencottah, divesting the local Tahsildar of his civil and magisterial powers and sanctioned a Magistrate-Munsiff for Kanjirapalli to take the place of the local Magistrate. It remains to be seen how far these changes will be found adequate to reduce the arrears of civil litigation.

11. Jails.— During the latter half of the year, the mark and remission system was brought into operation in the Central Prison, Trivandrum, and 35 prisoners were released in consequence. The conduct of the convicts generally is reported to have improved considerably as a result of the introduction of this measure.

12. Registration.— The number of registration offices continued the same, *viz.*, 51. There was a slight increase in the number of documents presented for registration.

The receipts and disbursements of the department were Rs. 3,40,092 and Rs. 1,05,954 respectively, thus giving a profit of Rs. 2,34,138 to Government, as against Rs. 2,21,667 in the previous year.

Proposals are under consideration for simplifying the process of registration, for dispensing with duplicate copies of documents presented for registration and for increasing the number of registry offices.

13. Forests.— The total area of reserved forests rose from 2,266 square miles to 2,305 square miles. A special officer was employed during the greater part of the year on forest settlement work; but towards the close of the year, this work was transferred to the normal revenue staff. The aggregate receipts and disbursements of the Forest Department amounted to Rs. 6,43,994 and Rs. 4,92,382 respectively, thus giving a net revenue of Rs. 1,51,612, as against a net revenue of Rs. 1,67,000 in 1081. The entire question of the administration of the forest revenue is now engaging the anxious consideration of Government.

14. Public Works.— The outlay on public works was, as usual, incurred partly through the agency of the Chief Engineer's Department and partly through the agency of the Maramat Department, which latter worked under the orders of the Division Peishkars. The total outlay on public works during the year was a little over 18¼ lakhs of rupees, out of which about 15¾ lakhs was spent by the Chief Engineer and about 2½ lakhs by the Maramat Department. It has been the policy of Government gradually to curtail the operations of the Maramat Department and I may mention that, whereas in 1076 the Chief Engineer spent 78 per cent. and the Maramat Department 22 per cent. of the total outlay, in 1082 the percentages were 86 and 14 respectively. At present, the operations of the Maramat Department are confined to the up-keep of palaces and religious and charitable institutions.

Out of the 15¾ lakhs spent by the Chief Engineer, the outlay on the Kodayar works was a little over 3½ lakhs. The expenditure so far incurred on the Kodayar Project was nearly 45 lakhs The latest information before Government is to the effect that it will take another 15 lakhs or so to complete the works. It is anticipated that we shall get a return of about 3 per cent. on the total outlay. I need

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